

THE NORTH DAKOTA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL STATE EMPHASIS AREAS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

1. **A solid academic core.** North Dakota holds high expectations for all youth and young adults to acquire and continuously improve their core academic knowledge and skills in reading, math, and science. In addition, we will expect our young people to participate in coursework and work experiences that will lead to rewarding careers and life-long learning. Toward that end, all agencies, and education/training entities will collaborate to a) provide multiple, rigorous academic learning opportunities linked to career preparation and b) actively recruit and engage dropouts and out-of-school youth in pursuing those opportunities.
2. **Articulation across programs and funding streams, summer and year-round.** Job Service North Dakota WIA Title I youth programs, State Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota University Systems, Job Corps, and other professional associations will develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's), or articulation agreements, awarding advanced placement and standing across programs at the next level of education/training. For example, a certified nursing assistant will count as an agreed-upon number of credits toward a Licensed Practical Nursing degree, and an A+ certification in computer networking will count as credit in the computer technician curriculum.
3. **Five-year Career Plan and/or individual Service Strategy for every young person.** Every high school student will complete and pursue a five-year plan to ensure the most productive use of four years of high school and at least one year of post-secondary education/training. In addition, every Title I – eligible youth will complete an Individual Service Strategy. Adults who serve youth will become knowledgeable about and assist youth in completing and making progress toward their plans. For example, teachers, counselors, and Title I youth customer service representatives and consultants will exchange information about learners' progress toward their plans.
4. **Industry-based certification as an over-arching goal for every youth.** State policymakers encourage local youth-serving educational entities and training providers to enroll learners in programs that lead to industry certification. For example, students' successful participation in work based summer youth employment activities should count toward certification requirements.
5. **Integrated MIS system to document student/youth progress.** The State will create and/or integrate an MIS system to keep up with students' progress toward their Career Plan or Individual Service Strategy. Youth-serving agencies and education/training entities will collect pertinent information and assist youth in building their portfolios.
6. **"Lighthouse" sites and co-sponsored events to promote innovation and quality program practices.** The School-to-Work Management Team should sponsor staff development for Tech Prep (Perkins) coordinators, Job Service Title I Customer Service staff and School-to-Work coordinators during PY 2002. Annual sessions should be held to showcase exemplary sites and assign value to innovation and quality program practices.